

**ECOSYSTEM STATUS INDICATORS*****Physical Environment*****GULF OF ALASKA****Pollock Survival Indices –FOCI**

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Using a conceptual model of early-life survival of western Gulf of Alaska walleye pollock (Megrey et al. 1996) for guidance, FOCI maintains several annual environmental indices. The indices are formulaic elements of a yearly prediction, during the year the fish are spawned, of the number of fish that will recruit as two-year olds. Some indices are determined qualitatively; the two reported here, seasonal rainfall at Kodiak and wind mixing in the exit region of Shelikof Strait, are determined numerically. Although data sources have changed somewhat over the years, chiefly with information used to estimate wind-mixing energy, every effort has been expended to make interannual comparisons accurate and reliable.

Presently, the FOCI program is developing a modified approach (Megrey et al. 2005) to its annual forecast algorithm. When modifications are complete, it is probable that new indices will become available for this report. It is possible that the indices presented here and in past years may be discontinued. Until a significantly long time series of new annual indices is available, the old indices will continue to be updated and published in this report.